



# REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 2016

Contact: Bill Meyer  
(800) 392-3202

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER – 2015 ANNUAL UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Total red meat production** for the United States totaled 48.5 billion pounds in 2015, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 48.4 billion pounds. **On-farm slaughter** totaled 87.8 million pounds.

**Beef production** totaled 23.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 87.8 million pounds, down 12 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 24.5 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 155.6 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2014.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2015 totaled 28.8 million head, down 5 percent from 2014, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,360 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 54.2 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 26.0 percent, dairy cows 10.3 percent, other cows 7.9 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 452,600 head, 20 percent lower than a year ago with 98.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 310 pounds, up 27 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 115.4 million head, 8 percent higher than 2014 with 99.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from last year, at 283 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.22 million head, was down 4 percent from the previous year with 89.9 percent by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2014 at 136 pounds. **Lambs and yearlings** comprised 94.3 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

For a full copy of the *Livestock Slaughter 2015 Summary* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For state specific questions, please contact:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt	1-800-645-7286
Colorado – William R. Meyer	1-800-392-3202
Montana – Eric Sommer	1-800-835-2612
New Mexico – Longino Bustillos	1-800-530-8810
Utah – John Hilton	1-800-747-8522
Wyoming – Rhonda Brandt	1-800-892-1660